

RAB Minutes

NAS North Island

Restoration Advisory Board

Introduction

The fifty-eighth Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting for Naval Air Station (NAS) North Island/Naval Amphibious Base (NAB) Coronado was held on Wednesday, August 11, 1999, at the Coronado Public Library from 6:30 p.m. to 8:35 p.m.

Ms. Fargo called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m., and welcomed RAB members and the public.

RAB Attendance

Bill Collins, Carla Fargo, John Locke, Richard Mach, Bob Geilenfeldt

Public/Navy Attendance

Ken Branch, LaConta Coleman, Stephen Dirtadian, Ed Kleeman, Nancy Lee, Scott Morris, Rick Phillips, Debbie Wankier, Rich Wong,

Approval of May 20, 1999, and June 16, 1999 Meeting Minutes

The May 20, 1999 and the June 16, 1999 meeting minutes were approved.

Meeting Topics

The August 1999 meeting topics were the RAB Training Needs, Site 10 Non-Time Critical Removal Action Update, and RAB Membership Drive and Conducting Business.

Introductions

The RAB welcomed two new guests; Mr. Kleeman introduced Bob Geilenfeldt, the newly appointed City of Coronado's Representative, and Mr. Mach introduced Lieutenant Commander Ken Brach, the new Public Works Officer for NAS North Island and NAB Coronado, who is replacing Commander Giorgione.

Presentations

RAB Training Needs—Richard Mach, *SWDIV RPM*

Mr. Mach identified the eleven training topics that were ranked in March 1999.

1). Relative Risk and Site Ranking Process. This was noted as the number one training need. The Department of Defense (DOD) has developed a relative risk model which has been used to

compare each of the sites in Coronado, to all the other sites within the Navy and DOD, so funding could be prioritized for those sites that appeared to be the worst. This process is referred to as the worst first model. The training can be accomplished in a 30-45 minute session, and can easily be accomplished during a RAB meeting. It was agreed to try to schedule this training and present the FY-00 budget at the next RAB meeting.

2). Risk Assessments. The Navy would be leery to provide training on this topic, due to its nature. However, both University of California San Diego (UCSD) and San Diego State University (SDSU) offer environmental training classes, and they could provide training during a RAB meeting. Depending on the extent of training required by the RAB, training could consume an entire RAB meeting or an entire week. It was agreed to discuss this topic in more detail at the next RAB meeting.

3). Groundwater. Charles Cheng from the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) gave a groundwater presentation to the RAB a couple of years ago. Mr. Mach recommended inviting Mr. Cheng to provide additional training since he works for the Water Board. It was agreed to invite Mr. Cheng to present this topic at either the October or December 1999 RAB meetings.

4). Innovative Technologies. This topic has many aspects to it. The RAB must decide if they want training on all of the innovative technologies that are out, or whether RAB wants to focus on a particular innovative technology. It was agreed to present one innovative technology (in detail), which is planned for potential implementation at NAS North Island.

5). Geology. The RAB could get an individual to provide a quick introduction to geology, and then discuss some of the specifics with respect to the geology that is present at NAB and NAS North Island.

6). Air Issues Related to Remediation. Rosa Salcedo from Air Pollution Control District (APCD) gave a presentation on air issues. The RAB could invite her to provide additional training during a RAB meeting.

7). The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act/Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (RCRA/CERCLA) Process/Environmental Law. When the RAB first began back in June of 1994, the training issue was addressed during a special full day Saturday session. Mr. Steve De Young from Bechtel covered the RCRA/CERCLA process in a one-hour session, which is available on video in the Coronado library.

8). Site Assessment Techniques. Mr. Mach recommended waiting until after the innovative technology training had been completed and then use the same approach for the site assessment techniques.

9). California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Process is a state regulation, a state requirement that either Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) or the Water Board implements. The recommendation would be to ask an individual from DTSC to give a presentation.

10, and 11). The remaining two are TRI Reporting and P2 Plans. Mr. Mach stated that they're not covered by the RAB and they aren't in the charter. He recommended deleting them from consideration for RAB training, the RAB agreed.

Before the Relative Risk/Site Ranking Process, Mrs. Fargo asked, "Will the fiscal year 2000 budget be ready by our September meeting?"

Mr. Mach answered, "We won't have the actual approved budget, but we have our plan as to how much we're asking for, and how much they put in 1/4 "

Mr. Mach explained how the Navy allocates its budget among the Naval Bases. Data is input into a computer program for the sites. Data such as what the contaminants are and what the concentrations are for soil, sediments, groundwater, etc are input into the model. A few questions are asked, such as "Is it near drinking water? Is it migrating?" There are three general choices for these questions: Definitely not migrating, definitely is migrating, or potentially could be. Once the data has been entered into the computer, it calculates a number, and ranks it. This process is done for all the sites, and then it compares all of them against each other. Then it also breaks them into three-by-three boxes based on all the things that were picked. Each of those boxes has a letter and a number associated with it—an X, Y or Z and a 1 through 9. These letters and numbers determine whether it's a high priority, intermediate priority, or low priority. The final numbers are compared against all the other sites, to make the final determination.

In summary, it was agreed to address the relative risk and FY-00 budget at the next available RAB meeting. The other "risk" training topics would be further discussed at the next RAB meeting to define the topic(s) to be addressed. Dr. Cheng will be invited to the October or December 1999 RAB meeting to present groundwater training. The RAB members are encouraged to view the RCRA/CERCLA training film in the library and request further regulatory training (if needed). The remaining topics will be scheduled for RAB meetings in 2000.

Site 10 Non-Time Critical Removal Action Update—Richard Mach, SWDIV RPM

In the past, Mr. Wong presented the plan to perform a non-time critical removal action at Site 10 at NAS North Island. This is the low-level radioactive waste slag site. The contract was awarded to OHM to do all of the up-front paperwork and documentation, Work Plans, Action Memoranda, and the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA). The site is on the north portion of the island adjoining San Diego Bay.

The objective of the non-time critical removal action is to mitigate metal and radium impacted soil and slag at the shoreline of Site 10. The waste practices that resulted in the accumulation of the slag and ash at Site 10 was the result of a smelter that is no longer operational. The smelter recovered metals from aircraft parts that were no longer needed, and the slag from the smelter was deposited on the shoreline of Site 10. The smelter was destroyed in 1976, and in 1995 an emergency removal action was undertaken to remove two outcroppings of slag that had been commingled with some radium dial sources. Some slag and ash remains at the site and has been identified as requiring further action. At this point, Oak Ridge National Laboratory is finalizing the remedial investigation for Site 10. Based on Oak Ridge's assessment and recent studies at the site, it is estimated that the remaining slag encompasses an area of approximately 19,000 square feet and a volume of approximately 37,000 cubic feet.

Based on the work that Oak Ridge has recently completed, in preparing their final Remedial Investigation (RI) report, preliminary conclusions indicate that the radium sources no longer pose a risk, with respect to the wastes on Site 10. It is expected that Oak Ridge will submit their report to DTSC on or about August 31, 1999. OHM is currently preparing the pre-construction documents in advance of the removal action, and those documents include the preparation of an Action Memorandum, an engineering evaluation/cost analysis, and a remedial action workplan. These documents are to be given to DTSC the fourth quarter of 1999 and be available for public review the first quarter of the year 2000.

It's not very cost effective to try to remove the slag and haul it to a radiation landfill to dispose of it. Also, the risk of removing the material is greater than leaving it in place. Therefore, the Navy is

looking at some sort of containment technology like putting up a sea wall or barrier. The bluff is then protected and the slag cannot get into the bay. Then some sort of cap, whether it be pavement or some other engineering cap will be placed on the site to prevent or minimize infiltration of water that could migrate the contaminants down into the groundwater and then out into the bay.

Ms. Fargo asked, "And there's no risk posed by leaching into the bay?"

Mr. Mach replied, "There's been an ecological study done by the Navy research lab over at SPAWAR. They've determined that there is no ecological risk right now."

Ms. Fargo asked, "Under Class 1 Landfill you note that Class 1 Landfill cannot accept low level radioactive waste. I thought that this was basically now just the metal. Does it still contain radioactive materials?"

Mr. Mach answered, "It has some radioactivity and that's why it has to go to a radioactive landfill, although the risk imposed at the site is not from the radiation."

Mr. Wong added, "Exposure from the radiation is low, but the restrictions for a Class 1 Landfill are very stringent."

RAB Membership Drive——Carla Fargo, *Community Co-Chair*

Ms Fargo noted that there are about 14 members, although the Mission Statement and Operating Procedures Guide states that RAB shall have approximately 25 members. The goal set for the September RAB meeting will be to make certain that the membership drive is started.

Public Questions and Comments

Meeting Agendas

Last month a request was made to limit meeting topics to allow time for discussions of what was going on for particular projects. It was agreed to limit the discussions to three major topics. For everything else that was going on, the Navy would provide a handout with a quick summary of all the other projects going on in North Island. A handout was provided to all the attendees at this meeting.

City of Coronado Representation

Mr. Bob Geilenfeldt volunteered to represent the City of Coronado.

Looking for New Members

Mr. Locke spoke to the "*Coronado Eagle*" and they said they would do a feature article on the RAB.

RAB Upcoming Meetings

Thursday, September 16, 1999

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Wednesday, December 1, 1999 (Note New Date)

Meeting Adjourned

Ms. Fargo concluded the meeting, and the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.